



VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 12 • DECEMBER 2021

ESPINAS Y FLORES

DECEMBER MEETING • UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS
CSSA MEMBER BENEFITS • BRAG TABLE WINNERS & more!

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA



ON THE COVER

Sunset Saguaro

Photo by Jared Petker

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message pg 3

December meeting speaker pg 4

CSSA Member Benefits pg 5

Plant of the Month pgs 6-23

SDCSS SCHEDULE

December in-person meeting: **December 11TH**

December speaker: **Jeremy Spath**

Upcoming events: **January in-person meeting,**

2-day February Show & Sale

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
Vice President	Chris Miller
Secretary	Donna Roden
Treasurer	Mitch Hubbard

DIRECTORS

Jen Greene, Kelly Griffin, Denise Huntsman-Griffin,
Whitney Meier, Al Kline, Dean Karras

COMMITTEES & SUB COMMITTEES

Conservation	Herb Stern
Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show	Kelly Griffin
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library	[open]
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Jim DeForest & Melanie Howe
Monthly Supply Sales	Gerry Plaisted

Benefit Drawing Table	Allen Clark & Chuck Ramey
Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner
Monthly Regalement	Kathy Clark & Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement	[open]
Coffee in the Garden Coordinators	Julie Dixon & Chuck Ramey

LIAISONS

Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Garden	Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation	[open]
SD Floral Association	Jeanette Dutton
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Hard to believe that this year is drawing to a close. It has been an interesting year with lots going on in our Society despite the ongoing Pandemic. We had two very successful "Nursery Crawl" events allowing many of you to get out to visit our vendors since we could not have our regular Show and Sale events in Balboa Park. We had monthly 'Meetings' on Zoom with speakers from all over the world along with Plant of the Month presentations by members. It was so exciting to meet again in August and enjoy a wonderful Picnic in September.



We are now looking forward to our Holiday get together and though it will be different due to ongoing restraints of the pandemic, we hope you will plan to join us for some end of the year fun. **Please note** there will be no exchange table, benefit drawing, general sales, library, or brag table.

We will be having both a silent auction and a live auction featuring many special plants, pottery, center pieces, and other succulent related items—including one of Gary Vincent's amazing bird houses! All proceeds from the auctions will be going to a very special cause—the CSSA has a fund to actively protect cactus and succulent species which are quickly becoming endangered due to poaching. This has become a huge issue all around the world due to internet sales driving the demand for these plants. So come prepared bid on something for someone on your gift list or that special plant you want for your collection AND help protect the plants we love from becoming extinct in the wild.

Jeremy Spath, also known as the "Agave Guru," will be our December speaker. Jeremy has recently published a book on Agaves which will be available for purchase along with a selection of his plants.

Also, in keeping with the holiday spirit, we will be having a cookie exchange! We know that not everyone has the skillset to make cookies and some of us love making and sharing them. If you are one in this latter category, please make a batch of cookies to share. **Please package** your cookies in baggies so we can all share in something yummy to take home and enjoy - **we will not be removing masks in the meeting room, despite the temptations!**

The Board has been busy making plans for 2022 and are looking forward to a fun year. We will be back with a BIG show and sale in February—two days! Mark your calendars for February 12 & 13—there will be lots of volunteer opportunities. I know we have many new members and I hope some of you will volunteer, as this is great fun, and a wonderful way to be involved and get to know your fellow cactophiles in our club.

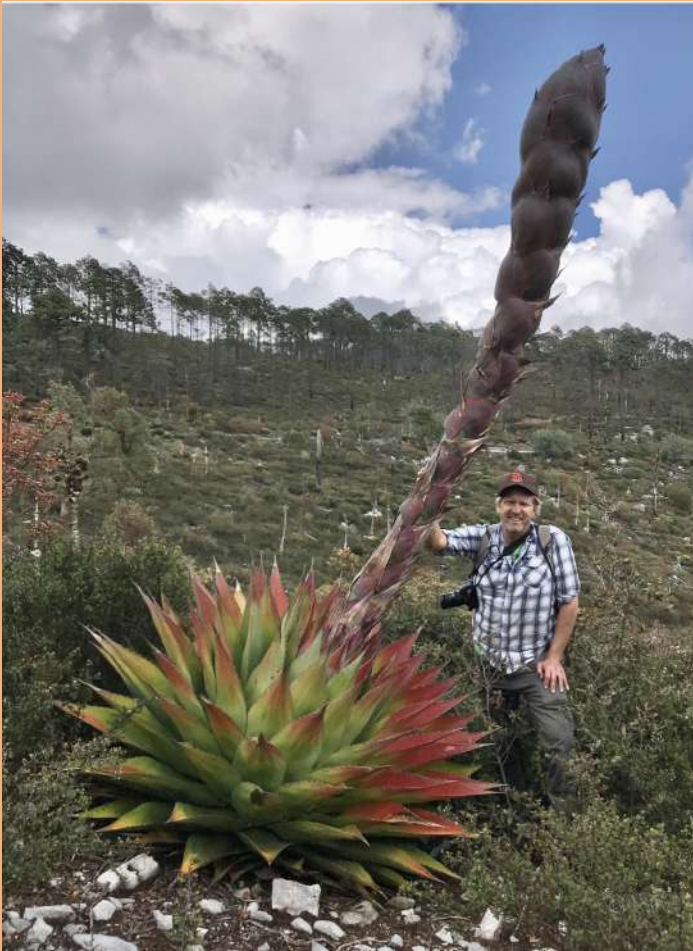
We are also planning to start up again with Coffee in the Garden—another great way to get acquainted with other members by visiting member's gardens for tours, snacks, visiting and other activities. Our first one will be in January 2022 at the home of Rick Bjorklund, our CSSA representative. Rick has an amazing garden which is always changing, and the best snacks ever! If you are interested in sharing your garden you will be able to sign up at the December or January meetings.

As this is the time of year for reflecting on things we are thankful for, I would like to say how grateful I am for all of you: the members of SDCSS—those who I have known for many years, and those who are newer to this organization; you are why I have been involved for almost 30 years in the wonderful society.

See you December 11!

Pam Badger
November 20, 2021

SDCSS DECEMBER SPEAKER



Join us **Saturday, December 11th** for our IN-PERSON meeting and speaker Jeremy Spath, speaking on the topic of **Agave Species, Cultivars & Hybrids**.

Our speaker: Jeremy Spath has felt inspired to see agaves in their natural habitat since his first trip into the field more than 15 years ago. This review covers his search for the beautiful agave habitats of the Americas. It additionally covers growing them in cultivation, with a particular emphasis on selecting exceptional clones. After leaving several years with the San Diego Botanic Garden, he began working for Rancho Soledad Nursery, in Rancho Santa Fe, Ca. There he worked with hybridizing agaves to create new and beautiful plants for the nursery. Now, Jeremy owns his own nursery, Hidden Agave in Escondido, California where he continues to grow, hybridize, and tissue culture agaves; as well as continually seek his muse & the endless habitats where they reside. Jeremy will also have available his new book! Agaves, Species Cultivars & Hybrids, a sweeping review of the genus, this new work

takes a deep dive into the world of agaves, both cultivated and in their native habitat. Co-authored with Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents, this 350+ page book offers over 1500 images and informative information about these stunningly beautiful and architectural plants. Cultivars and hybrids are included, as well as discussion on the majority of the species, including many newly discovered ones!

See you at the meeting on December 11th!

Club meetings are free and open to the public.

SDCSS meets at Balboa Park monthly, generally on the second Saturday of each month, from 1 - 4 pm in Room 101 of the Casa del Prado.

The SDCSS abides by the Balboa Park mask policy—masks will be worn indoors at our meeting at all times. A reminder that we will not have a library table this month, but will have an exchange table and brag table.

Thank you so much for staying safe!

GREAT REASONS TO JOIN THE CSSA



The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA), which began in 1929, has been on a mission to serve the wide interests of the global cactus and succulent community. It provides a wide range of benefits and services to members including a quarterly journal (topics have included horticultural instruction, new plants, research and conservation reports, travelogues, biographical and historical material, book reviews, and photographs of plants in habitat or cultivation), quarterly *To The Point* e-newsletter (featuring news, views and growing tips from around the world), bi-monthly webinar series featuring cactus and succulent experts from around the world, ability to purchase cacti and succulent seeds at the CSSA Seed Depot, conventions, field trips, support for research projects (providing small facilitation grants up to \$3000 to help fund well-designed research programs on the botany, horticulture, and conservation of succulent plants), and conservation efforts. CSSA journals and back issues are available for purchase as is the *Haseltonia* yearbook (which features peer-reviewed articles about all aspects of cacti, succulents and their environs (topics have included current research and conservation reports, new species descriptions and lengthy taxonomic revisions, historical and biographical notes, chemical and cytological studies, evolutionary biology and ethnobotanical reports, propagation and pest control methods, and pollinator studies). CSSA also offers specialty books for sale including *Aloes of the Cactus & Succulent Journal*, *Beginner's Guide to Haworthia*, *Agaves and other Succulent Monocots*, and *Beginner's Guide to Adromischus*, *Aeonium*, *Dudleya*, *Euphorbia*, *Pelargonium* and other Succulent Dicots. Memberships are available to affiliate clubs and individuals.

Our club has a CSSA affiliate club membership, receives the quarterly journal, votes in the CSSA elections, and provides CSSA information to our

members. Several of our club members have been CSSA board members. Individual memberships are available on two levels. A full membership includes the CSSA journal, *To the Point* e-newsletter, participation in webinars, access to the seed depot, and ability to participate in conventions and field trips. A **new** supporting membership includes all of the preceding except the journal. CSSA also accepts donations which are tax-deductible, which help support all of the services that CSSA provides.



I have enjoyed attending CSSA conventions and regularly participate in the CSSA webinars which have been fantastic (recent ones include *Yuccas* by Brian Kemble, *Rock and Tree Dwelling Succulents of Australia* by Attila Kapitany, *Oaxaca Meanderings...* by Kelly Griffin, *Succulent Trees* by Dan Mahr, *Illegal Poaching of Namaqualand Succulents* by Karel Du Toit, and one on *Conophytums* by Steven Hammer). Our newsletter provides information on upcoming CSSA webinars and the link to register. More information about CSSA is available on their website at <https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org>.

I invite you to become an individual member of CSSA and would be happy to discuss CSSA with you further, including how to join the next CSSA webinar if you have not done so already.

Kindly
RICK BJORKLUND

NOVEMBER 2021 BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

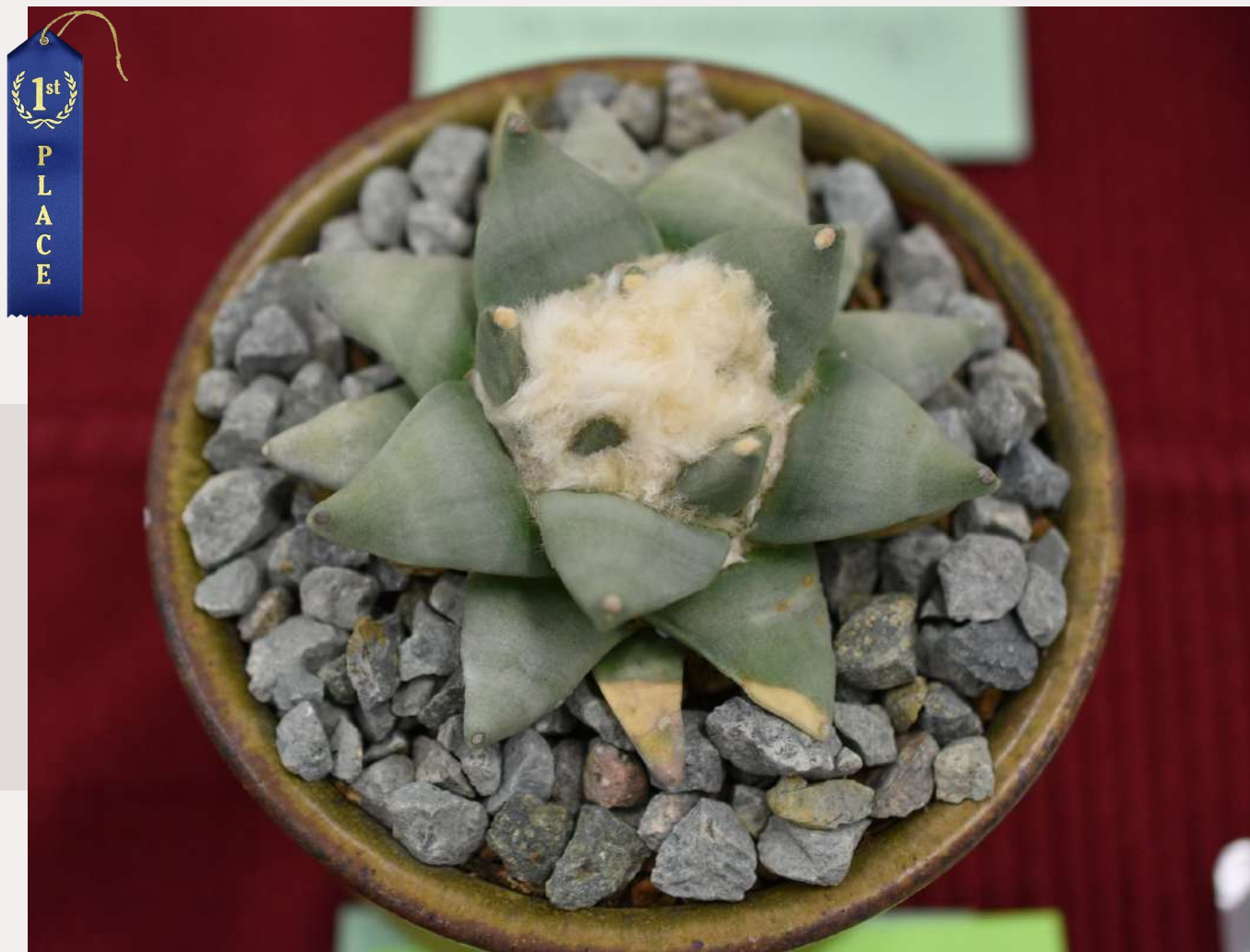
We asked SDCSS members to bring their best plants to share for the November Meeting's Brag Table, judged by our wonderful guest speaker Ernesto Sandoval accompanied by Kelly Griffin!

Our participants included:

33 specimens: 13 cactus, 20 succulents

We will have a regular meeting in December, but **NO brag table**.
We look forward to highlighting your plants in the new year!

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS

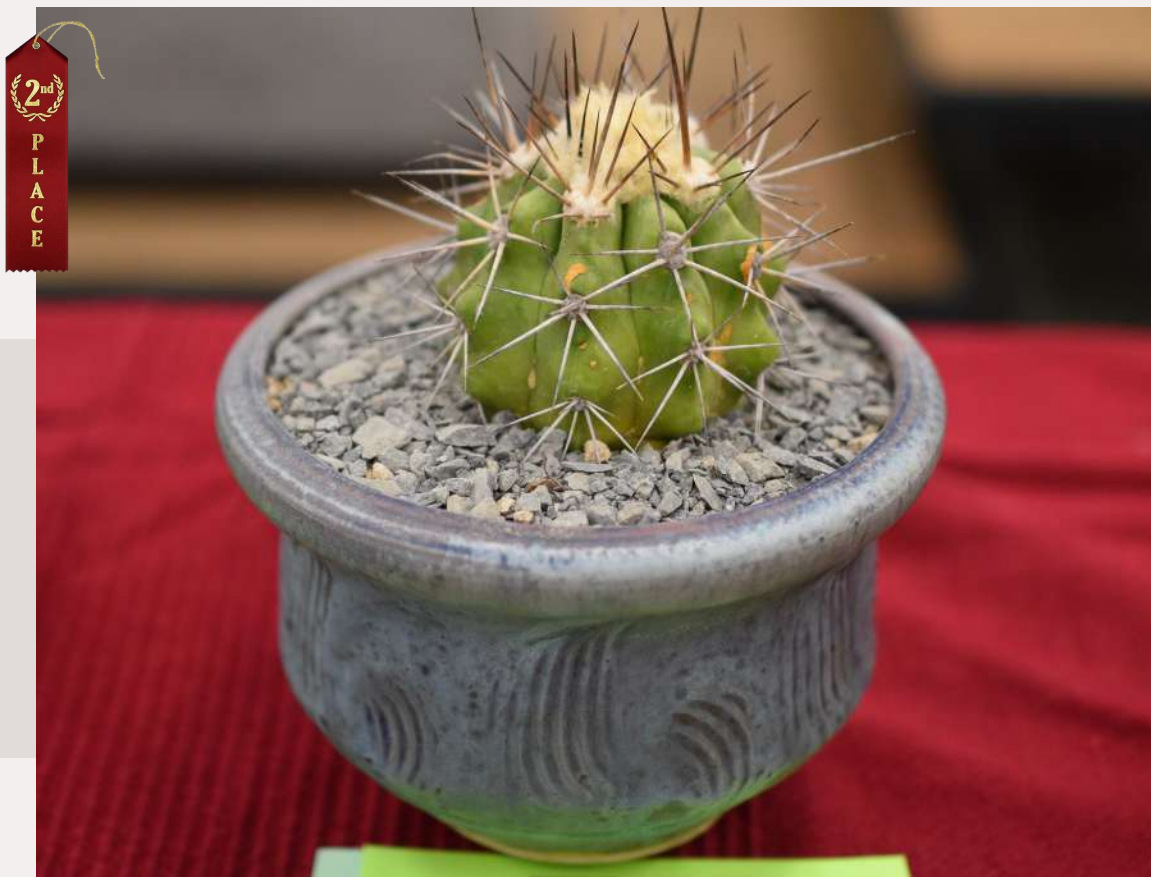


1st: *Ariocarpus retusus*

Jennifer Greene



NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE CACTUS



2nd: *Copiapoa marginata*

Jennifer Greene



NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Gymnocalycium bayrianum*

Jose Ramos

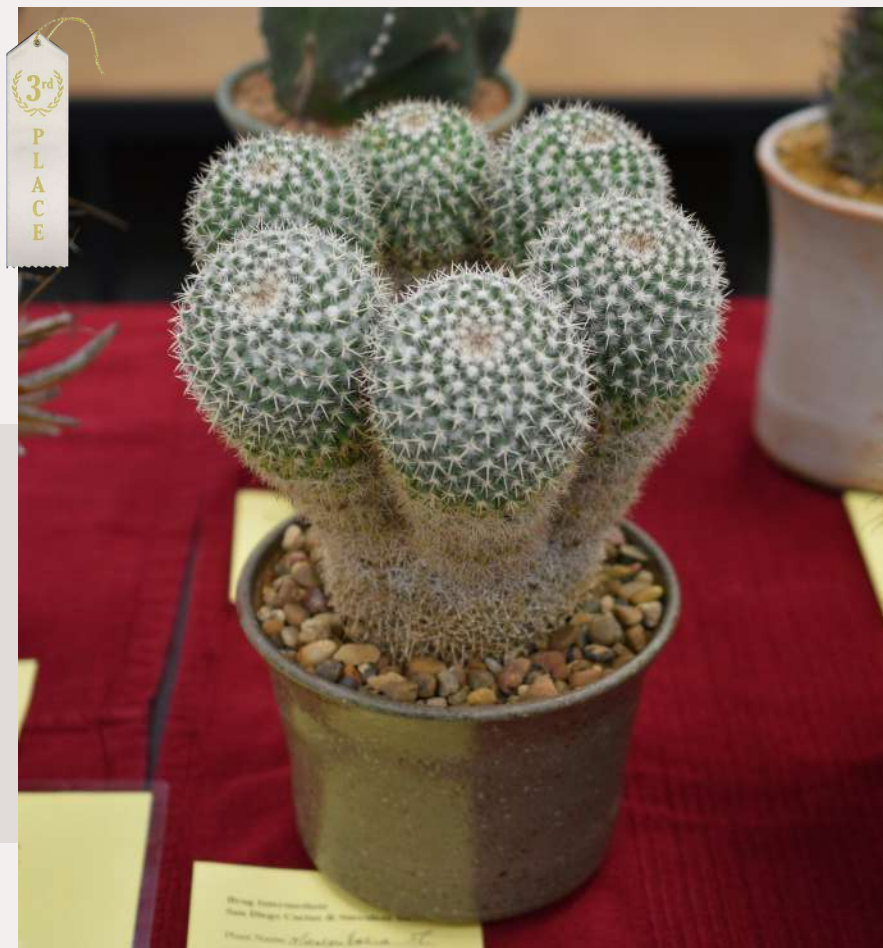


NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



2nd: *Mammillaria
bombycina*

Jose Ramos



3rd: *Mammillaria* sp.
(possibly *M. parkinsonii*)

Norb Roden

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



Leuchtenbergia principis

Charles Ramey



Astrophytum hybrid

Jose Ramos



Neoporteria paucicostata

Jose Ramos



Copiapoa lembckeii

Allen Clark

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Turbinicarpus
gielsdorfianus*

Brian Shepherd



NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED CACTUS



2nd: *Ariocarpus retusus* var. *furfuraceus*

Candy and Jerry Garner



3rd: *Astrophytum asterias*

Brian Shepherd



Micropuntia tuberculosphoplica

Brian Shepherd

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Euphorbia* hybrid
Jared Petker



NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Sansevieria canaliculate*
Georgia Kenney



3rd: *Gasteria armstrongii* hybrid

Jennifer Greene

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Hoodia parviflora

Jennifer Greene



Titanopsis calcareum

Jennifer Greene

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Bursera fagaroides*

Jose Ramos

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Sansevieria pinguicula*
Bill and Jean O'Daniel

3rd: *Euphorbia cylindrifolia* v.
tuberifera
Jose Ramos



3rd: *Aloe peglerae*
Jose Ramos

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



Ficus sp.

Jose Ramos



Pachypodium bispinosum

Jose Ramos



Aloe bellatula

Charles Ramey

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



Euphorbia milli crest

Charles Ramey



Euphorbia inermis

Jose Ramos



Sansevieria pinguicula

Charles Ramey

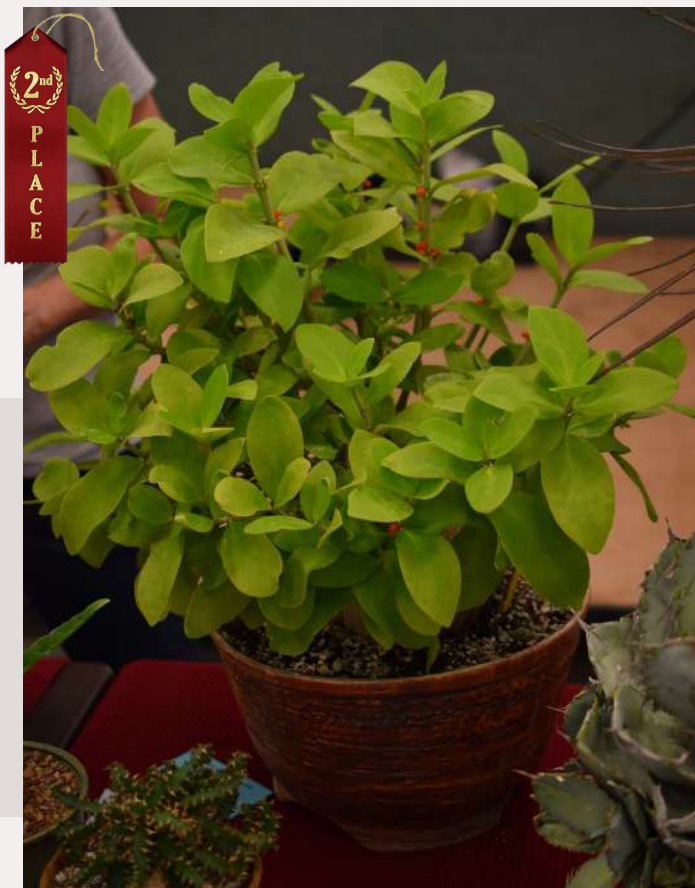
NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: Various plants in a Don Hunt pot

Kelly Griffin

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



2nd: *Hydnophytum formicarum*
Kelly Griffin



3rd: *Euphorbia stellata*

Pam Badger

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



Veltheimia capensis

Candy and Jerry Garner



Agave titanota

Kelly Griffin